The Huntsville Section of the National Conference of Standards Laboratories International was held on World Metrology Day, Wednesday, May 20 in the Goldenrod Room of the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge. The view from the Lodge atop Taylor Mountain of the surrounding mountains and the 2.79 x 10^8 m^2 (69,000 acre) Lake Guntersville 152 m (500 ft) below was awe inspiring. Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) are common in this area and several sightings were enjoyed during breaks on the observation deck.

After a continental breakfast provided by sponsors Agilent Technologies, ASL US, Guildline Instruments, Measurements International and W. A. Brown, the meeting was called to order with a welcome and announcements given by Huntsville Section Coordinator Beverly Garcia. Then introductions were given with a special welcome to new visitors.

The first presentation was given by Jack Somppi, the Huntsville Section’s new Regional Vice President. Jack delivered updates and news from the recent NCSLI Board of Directors meeting. The Section gave a hearty welcome to Jack and hopes he will be able to visit again.

The second presentation “Report of an Inter-laboratory Comparison of High Value Resistance Measurements” was given by Dr. Li Pi Su. Dr. Su, formerly Professor of Mathematics at Oklahoma State University is the Senior Metrologist at the Army Primary Standards Laboratory. This talk gave interesting results describing the Army’s research in the area of high resistance measurements.

After a short break, Kenneth Sloneker of ASL US gave a presentation “Understanding Ratio Bridge Errors in Temperature Measurements” giving examples and clearly pointing out potential errors that are often overlooked. Mr. Sloneker is also chair of the ASTM committee on thermocouple calibrations and tentatively agreed to return and speak on that subject for the section fall meeting.

A Dutch Treat luncheon was enjoyed by attendees in the Lodge Pinecrest Dining room with its comfortable atmosphere and spectacular view.

After lunch, a talk was given by Duane Brown of Measurements International describing a new TeraOhm bridge technology that is gathering attention with impressive results.

The final presentation, “Optimizing Terahmeter Calibrations” was given by Mark Evans of Guildline Instruments presenting results of novel methods for comparing high-value resistors with a scanner and Terahmeter giving enhanced accuracy.

After some discussion of topics for future meetings, the Section voted to have the Fall Meeting on Thursday, November 18th, 2010 at the State Park Lodge. Section Coordinator Beverly Garcia immediately secured the room reservation.

The meeting adjourned with a drawing for generous door prizes provided by the sponsors with two fortunate attendees winning hand held multimeters provided by W.A. Brown.

keneth.garcia3@us.army.mil